MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I know from the member for how many days the Port Officer was managing without a proper kitchen attached to his Bungalow, after this storm?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: I do not know.

The Demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1112 be taken up for consideration.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Before moving my first resolution I may be permitted to make a few general observations regarding the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of Audit and Appropriation for the year 1112 M. E.

PRESIDENT: Under the Rules you are entitled to move your motion and then make your observations.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, at the outset I must congratulate Government on account of the fact that there were no irregularities in reappropriation during the year. It is gratifying to note in this connection that the system of appropriation of the sanctioned amounts has satisfactorily improved as a result of the constitution of the Public Accounts Committee on the statutory basis. I am glad to find that the Public Accounts Committee has examined the necessity of establishing the Commercial and Industrial Museum at Alleppey with a Commercial Bureau attached to it, and that such a proposal is under consideration of Government. On account of the growing importance of the Alleppey town and the number of travellers and tourists visiting it, the establishment of such a museum has become an indispensable necessity. I am glad to find that the proposal for the establishment of a museum is under the consideration of Government.

I am constrained to observe that, in spite of the strenuous attempts made by Government, there is no considerable improvement in the matter of obtaining unnecessary supplementary and additional grants by the Head of several Departments. Page 60 of the Appropriation Report deals with the details of such unnecessary supplementary and additional grants. This is a sure index of the fact that several heads of departments were not sufficiently in touch with the progress of the expenditure from time to time. It is equally disappointing to note that the number of defalcations, misappropriations, and financial irregularities during the year was on the increase. The Land Revenue Department stands first in this respect. It is stated on page 175 of the Audit Report that an amount of over Rs. 85,000 due from the abkari contractors had to be written off as irrecoverable during the year. The loss is partly attributed to certain inherent defects in the system and rules. I would request Government to take early steps to put a complete stop to this sort of growing defalcations and misappropriation of Government money, and also to remedy the evils arising out of the inherent defects in the system and rules. It is seen from Page 115 of

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the Appropriation Accounts that, out of a total allotment of Rs. 19,867 sanctioned for the amelioration of the backward communities, there was a saving of Rs. 4,717. The main reason for this saving is stated to be that full provision allowed for the improvement of education of backward class pupils was not utilised for the purpose. We can pardon any omission or even any defalcation. But this sort of making savings from the small funds allotted for the improvement of education of the backward class pupils is really sinful. I would urge that the Government may be pleased to take particular care to see that the whole amount allotted for such purposes is utilised in full, at least in future. With these general observations, I beg to move my first resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that action be taken against the Heads of Departments who did not submit a surrender report of the surplus funds at their disposal as per the rules.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know what the member suggests in the cases where Government themselves have asked the Heads of Departments to surrender certain amounts ?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : I would inform the member that by means of Article 244 of the Account Code, Part I, Government have already issued directions to the Heads of Departments to submit surrender statements in every year so far as each Department is concerned and we see that no useful result has come out of it. That is the reason why I am bringing by means of this resolution the particular aspect of the question to the attention of this House. Even though there was this definite direction to submit a formal report as soon as the Head of the Department foresees any lapse or savings, and to surrender whatever was not likely to be spent during the remainder of the year, such surrender statements were received in time during the year 1112 only from three Departments, *viz.*, the Financial Secretariat, the P. W. D. and the State Guests Department. It is also seen from the Appropriation Report that many of the controlling officers, could have anticipated such savings and surrendered the surplus funds in time. The belated submission of a surrender statement for over 15 lakhs of rupees by the Water Works and Drainage Department on the last working day of the year, *viz* , 30th Karkadagam 1112, was not of any value, and hence it was taken as simply a lapse statement. This sort of behaviour on the part of Heads of Departments is a clear derilietion of duty; clear disobedience of Government orders, and they, no doubt, diserve to be severly dealt with. Hence I move that "this Assembly recommends to Government that action be taken against the Heads of Departments who did not submit a surrender report of the surplus funds at their disposal as per the rules", to the unanimous acceptance of the House.

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MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Sir, it will be observed from the Audit and Appropriation Report submitted to this House by the Account Officer that stringent instructions have been issued to all departmental heads who defaulted to submit surplus statements that they should be more vigilant and more prompt in the submission of such reports in subsequent years. But I may, at the same time, inform the House that there may be certain departments where they could not anticipate in time the probable allotment which could be surrendered at the end of the year. In 1112, for instance in the Medical Department, it was not possible for the Head of that Department to anticipate that the medical supply would not be received in time. As a matter of fact, the lapse was entirely due to the circumstance that the medical supply did not arrive in time, although it was anticipated that it would arrive before the end of the year. Similarly, in the Judicial and Education Departments, the delay in giving effect to the standarisation scheme naturally prevented the heads of the departments concerned to anticipate these lapses. But in the case of other Heads of Departments who had every opportunity to anticipate such surrenders, stringent instructions have already been issued that in subsequent years such delinquent omission should not be repeated. I am sure that this assurance will satisfy the honourable member.

MR. PULIYOOR T P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know what action they have taken against the belated submission of the surrender reports by the Water Works and Drainage Department on the last working day of the year ?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI : Explanation has been called for, and as soon as it is received necessary action will be taken thereon.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the Government whether they have taken any action against Heads of Departments who did not care to submit surrender reports as per Article 244 of the Account Code ?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI : As I have stated, action has been taken in respect of those departments whose explanations have been received, and in respect of other departments necessary and stringent action will be taken in regard to their omission to do so.

MR. PULIOOR T. P. VELAYUDAN PILLAI : I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution on the face of that assurance.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : I move my second resolution—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that adequate and effective steps be taken against frauds and misappropriations as disclosed by the Audit Report."

During the course of my general observations regarding the Public Accounts Committee Report, I have already stated in detail that the number of the defalcations and misappropriations of Government money

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is on the increase. In my opinion the chief or the most important reason for this unhappy state of affairs is that adequate and effective steps are not taken against the delinquents. Punishments, in several cases, vary with personal and other considerations. If similar offences are committed by two different officers, one will be severely punished and the other may not at all be punished. I shall quote instances to support my position. The loss may be written off in the case of one; and recovered in the case of the other. It is high time for the Government to put a stop to this differential treatment in the matter of awarding punishments to delinquents on considerations of person and community. It is also seen from the report that there is no continuity of policy or uniformity in the matter of awarding punishments. If a high paid officer commits an offence he will not at all be punished; at the same time, if a low paid officer is found to have committed a similar offence he will be severely punished, and the whole amount of loss will be recovered from him. Chapter V of the Audit Report deals with the action taken on previous year's report. Item Nos. 18 and 19 are instances which go to prove my submission. Item Nos. 18 and 19 in Chapter V of the Audit Report will go to prove the force in my argument.

Reference to the previous report.	*Nature of the irregularity.*	*Action taken.*
18. Para 59, page 136.	Loss of library books in a college and in a Vernacular Middle School.	

"Government sanctioned the missing books in the College being written off the accounts. As for the loss of books in the Vernacular Middle School it was made good from the party responsible. The total amount to be recovered was Rs. 28-10-8 of which Rs. 19-13-8 has already been recovered in 5 instalments and the balance is to be recovered in one instalment. Regarding the recovery and remittance of the last instalment, the report of the Division Inspector is awaited."

That is one instance where different treatment has been given to officers of different status for a similar offence.

Reference to the previous report.	*Nature of the irregularity.*	*Action taken.*
19. Para 60, page 136 of the report.	Preferring 3 arrear Establishment pay bills of a Vernacular Middle School for Girls containing overlapping claims.	The explanations of the Head Mistress who prepared the Bill, and of the Assistant Inspectress of Girls' Schools, and the clerk who scrutinised the bills were obtained. The Head Mistress of the School has been severely warned. It is also reported that the mistake in the office of the Assistant Inspectress was due to inadvertence.

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Nos. 9 and 15 will also prove my contention.

Reference to the previous report.	*Nature of the irregularity.*	*Action taken.*
9. Para 21, pages 108 and 109 of the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1110 and para 3, page 152 of the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1111.	Loss on account of the failure to lease out certain trees in 1103 and 1104 by the staff of a Taluk Office, Rs 444-8-0.	A sum of Rs. 142 has already been recovered from the clerk concerned.

It is not seen who is responsible for the balance of the amount or whether any punishment was given to the delinquent.

15. Para 54, page 135 of the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1111.	Misappropriation of Rs. 1,486-14-1 out of the bus warrant amounts in a D. S. P's office.	Government called for the explanations of the D. S, Ps. who were in charge of the District during the period of defalcation, and finding that the explanation furnished by one of them was unacceptable, they ordered that officer being fined Rs. 5. Action is in progress in regard to the recovery of the balance of Rs. 952-3-9 still due from the delinquent, Head Accountant.

It is not seem what punishment was given to the Head Accountant concerned.

So, my submission is that the number of defalcations and misappropriations are on the increase, because Government are not taking adequate and effective steps against such defalcations and misappropriations So, I move my resolution for the unanimous acceptance of the House.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Sir, Government are aware that there have been cases of leakages of revenue in several departments. All possible human precautions have been taken to prevent such leakages; but on account of the perversity of some subordinates, some such leakages do occur. But at the same time, I must express my surprise that the honourable member should have stated that punishments awarded by Government to such delinquents are always coloured or prejudiced by personal considerations.

PRESIDENT: I do not think the honourable member used the expression ' always .'

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I hold the Head of Departments responsible for such considerations.

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MR. M GOVINDA PILLAI: That statement is far from the truth. I must certainly repudiate that statement; because, from a consideration of the facts and circumstances of every case, it will be seen that in the exercise of their discretion they have awarded punishments in each case on its individual merits. It will be seen from the report itself that every case of misappropriation for fraud has been dealt with then and there. Some are under investigation; and in some other cases investigation has been completed. Offenders have been brought to book. Subordinates have been suspended, dismissed and heavily fined. Punishments must naturally vary in individual cases. All the facts and circumstances of the cases are not before the House. Government are in possession of them. Each case will have to be decided on its own merits, and according to the seriousness of the offence they have to arrive at a decision in punishing the offenders. But they have never been swayed by the consideration that the delinquent was a mere clerk or that he was the Head of a Department. The blame was judiciously apportioned between the persons responsible for the happenings.

In regard to the particular case mentioned by the honourable member, I am not in a position to give all the information regarding the nature of the punishment awarded to the Head Accountant or to the clerk concerned. But in regard to the loss of books, I may say, that the loss of books in the college and that in the vernacular schools must naturally stand on different footings. I know that books from the college library were lost during several years, and when explanations were obtained from the Principals concerned, it was found that they were not to blame but the clerks and the librarians who were in charge of the library. Explanations were called for from them, and on their receipt it was found that the action taken was the legitimate and proper thing for the Government to do. In regard to the loss in the vernacular schools it was comparatively small, and there was absolutely no comparison with the loss in the college.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether in the case of a particular offence where the loss is small, the officer concerned will be severly punished? Is that the policy of the Government?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: It will depend upon the merits of each case. It will not depend upon the amount of the loss.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know the nature of the punishments awarded?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: In some cases subordinates have been fined and in other cases they have been dismissed, and probably in some other cases where the guilt has not been brought home to the party he has been warned.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: May I know whether punishment will vary in regard to the same kind of irregularities?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: The punishments will depend upon the circumstances and merits of each case. It does not matter whether the loss is small or big.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : I beg leave of the house to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT : I am prefectly willing to allow the honourable member, Mr. Nadar, to club all his resolutions together and speak on them. Or would he prefer to speak separately?

MR K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : I wish to speak on them one by one.

PRESIDENT : Very well.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Sir, in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1112 in paragraph 3 it is stated "the savings amounted to Rs 46·86 lakhs or 18·35 per cent. of the final aggregate grant and were larger than the savings for the preceding year... .." Sir, the question is whether Government are justified in having such a large saving. It is also painful to find that this huge saving of Rs. 46·86 lakhs is chiefly made up by savings under capital expenditure and investments on reproductive works because savings under capital expenditure and investments on reproductive works comes to about 33.62 lakhs against the total savings of 46·86 lakhs. The relevant question is whether Government are justified in making such a huge savings under these useful items of expenditure. Sir, investments on reproductive works are very useful and these must be fully spent. If it is a saving under non-votable items I should be only glad. If it is a saving under political and miscellaneous expenditure I would be equally glad. If it is a saving under salaries of big officers including the Dewan I would be rather jubilant. But if it is a saving under capital investments and the reproductive works I cannot countenance it, Sir. There, Government are not justified to make such large savings. The usual explanation given by the Government is that they have no control over extraneous circumstances. That is a lame excuse. Government have made a savings of Rs. 11·26 lakhs on the item of expenditure in grant No. III *i. e.*, water supply to the municipal towns of Alleppey, Nagercoil and Shencotta. In 1112, the final grant was Rs. 13 lakhs. The savings effected was 11·26 lakhs. Sir, supply of good water to these towns is very important particularly in the case of Nagercoil for which we were agitating for the last 25 years. There are very many tanks and wells in the town, but water is scarce and brackish. It is about 2 years since the grant was made for the supply of good water to the town of Nagercoil. But Government are not able to give water, and I think it may take a quarter of a century, if they proceed to the work at this rate, to complete the water supply scheme in Nagercoil. Such being the case Government are not justified in making vast savings under Capital Works. With these words I move the motion and commend it for the acceptance of the House.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI : Sir, the honourable member seems to be under a misapprehension that the Government were very anxious to effect savings. But the fact is that the Government were really anxious to spend as much as possible. I hope the honourabl

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member would concede that there are difficulties in the way of spending the whole of the allotted amount when we take up such important and costly enterprises as water supply schemes. There are several preliminary things to be done before actual expenses are incurred. Surveying and acquisition of lands take time, and naturally expense on the scheme can be incurred only after these are completed.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether Government would not lose in paying interest if such works are delayed.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: I do not agree with the honourable member.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, I am speaking in respect of water supply secheme for Nagercoil where the reservoir is being kept waiting to be utilised. The reservoir has been caused to lie idle for the past 1 or 2 years; and payment has already been made hereby Government lose the interest on the investment on the reservoir.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: I thank the honourable member for the information. But I am not aware of it. The point is that there are items of work to be gone into before the actual work is begun.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether it is not the intention of Government to budget huge amounts for reproductive works every year, to avoid being censured?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: No, Sir, I certainly disagree with the suggestion therein contained. I may say that the department was certainly anxious to proceed with the work as speedily as possible.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether there was any justification to complete the reservoir at a cost of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 and then allow it to lie idle till water can be expected from the dam ?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: I am not in a position to give any professional opinion to justify the work that has been already done. The Chief Engineer can possibly explain its justification.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Was it not the intention of Government that this work might lie over till a definite period?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: No such intention was in the mind of Government. My point, as has been already elaborated, is that capital works take time for completion; and hence savings are not made intentionally. And on account of unforeseen difficulties and other justifiable causes such lapses do occur. So, I desire once again to impress upon the honourable member, Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar, that these lapses occur on account of difficulties to spend the allotted amounts within a particular period.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, in view of the explanation given by the Financial Secretary I beg to withdraw the resolution.

Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly recommends to Government to take severe action against those P. W. Officers who accept tenders other than the lowest for reasons which are not justifiable

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Sir, when the Auditor inspected the accounts of P. W. D. Offices it was found that there were many tenders, accepted by the officer concerned, which quoted rates higher than the lowest. In page 204 of the Audit Report for the year 1112, the reasons recorded for accepting such tenders are given; and they have been very often unconvincing. One reason given is that the contractor in question is a most reliable contractor. Another reason given is that the contractor whose tender was accepted has always been entrusted with the maintenance work on all buildings of importance in this town. and hence he is given the work as the rates are reasonable. The third reason for accepting the second lowest is that the difference between the first and the second is only Rs. 14. Another reason given is that the second lowest selected after reducing certain rates, being more reliable, the difference amount as accepted being Rs. 57. Then again, another reason is given that the second lowest tenderer has other works to complete in time. The difference in amount between the first and the second is Rs. 242. If this were so, works can be given to any man chosen by the officer, irrespective of his tender rates. This abuse is chiefly found in the Nagercoil Division. That is why I had tabled the following questions to be asked in this house.

"(*a*) No. 36. Will the Government be pleased to state whether the P. W. Office in Nagercoil was audited in 1112 and 1113?

(*b*) How many cases of acceptance of tenders other than the lowest were noticed?

(*c*) The reasons recorded for the acceptance of such tenders."

I imagine therefore, Sir, that contracts are given to certain contractors in whom the P. W. Division Officers were interested. Sir, the expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department is a waste, and I bring forward this resolution to urge upon the attention of this House that the Department needs thorough over-hauling.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether more than one contract can be given to one person at a time and whether two tenders quoting different rates are sent by one person, and one of them is preferred.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I think there are many cases of acceptance of tenders other than the lowest.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Sir, Government are in full sympathy with the principle underlying this resolution, and as far as possible Government and the Department will act up to it. It is seen from the report that stringent and strict instructions have been issued by the Chief Engineer to the Division Offices, and as far as possible the lowest tender alone will be accepted. But I may say for the information of the House that in all cases the acceptance of the lowest tender may not be feasible in the interest of work. There is at present so much of cut-throat competition that the lowest tender rate may not be always relied upon. The Executive Engineer concerned can by using his discretion give contracts to certain persons whom he may know well regarding their financial condition and capacity for the execution of a particular work. It is only in such cases that the Chief

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Engineer or the Executive Engineer accepts tenders other than the lowest. It is not merely on personal or other consideration that the lowest tender is rejected. I may once again impress upon the honorable mover that stringent instructions have already been issued by the Government to the officers concerned to adhere to the principle of accepting the lowest tender as far as possible

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Has the Chief Engineer any observations to make?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: Sir, I have little more to say than what the Financial Secretary has said. Every time and in every case the Division Officer, when he does not accept the lowest tender, reports to me and I satisfy myself that his reasons are acceptable or not. In some cases I have not agreed and have accordingly issued necessary instructions in the matter.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether you have received any complaints against the Division Officers from the conttractors?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: Occasionally I do receive complaints, and there I always investigate.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know whether you have taken any disciplinary action against any P. W. D. Officer for accepting tenders other than the lowest?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: Yes, Sir; I have.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know the name of the officer?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: No, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Nadar, do you want to press the resolution?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I press for a division.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and lost.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I demand a poll.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As nobody rises in favour of the motion, a poll is not necessary.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly recomends to Government that the expenditure under P. W. works should as far as possible be evenly distributed in each quarter of the year and that the work done and measured in one month should ordinarily be paid for in the next month.

Sir, in moving this resolution I may point out that page 148 of the last year's Audit Report shows a rush of expenditure during the last quarter of the year. So a rule should be made to avoid such rush of expenditure in a particular period of the year. In Madras and Mysore there is a rule that the expenditure in a year should be evenly distributed and that the work done and measured in one month should ordinarily be paid for in the next month. But in 1112 there appears to be no improvement in this way. On page 217 of the Audit report for 1112 a statement is given distributing the expenditure in each divi-

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sion for the 4 quarters of the year. From this we find that the sums spent in the 4th quarter of the year, that is towards the closing month of the year, are larger than the sums spent in all the other 3 quarters of the year. Again we notice that the payments made in Karkadakam are larger than all the payments made in the previous three quarters. Therefore, Sir, I submit that it is a defect in the administration. With these words I move the resolution and commend it for the acceptance of the House.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Sir, Government are in full agreement with the object sought for by this resolution. But in regard to the resolution I may inform the House that there are practical difficulties in giving effect to the principle underlying it. The House will remember that the Chief Engineer makes the separate allotments for the works only after the Budget Session is over, say, in the month of Chingam Therefore it is practically impossible to begin work earlier than in Kanni, and so expenditure during the first quarter will ordinarily be less. For the execution of important works several preliminary things have to be gone through and this will naturally take time.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether the Chief Engineer does not prepare the statement of expenditure for different items before the Budget Session?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: No, Sir, it is only after the Budget is passed by the Legislature and the Government sanctions the allotment for the Department that the Chief Engineer begins to take up the different works for execution. So what I say is that works cannot ordinarily be done within a definite period or at a particular period. For example, the maintenance of a road during the hot part of the year is found to be very difficult, as plenty of water is required for the work. So, delay is inevitable. Such contingencies stand in the way of achieving the objects adumbrated in the resolution. You will find from the Committee's Report that Government have already devoted their attention to the matter to effect an equalisation of expenditure in the several quarters of the year. On page 218 of the Report it is stated as follows:—

> "As a result of further correspondence on the subject between the Government and the Chief Engineer, the latter agreed to observe the following proposal in expending the grants provided for the works.
>
> | | | |
> |---|---|---|
> | First quarter | 15 per cent. | |
> | Second ... | 25 ... | |
> | Third ... | 25 ... | |
> | and Fourth ... | 35 ... | " |

But it remains to be seen whether this will be a practical scheme. Government trust that the Public Works Department will see that the scheme is given effect to. Probably in a year or two I may be able to assure the House that the scheme has proved a success.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR In view of the explanation given by the Financial Secretary I beg to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

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The motion by the Financial Secretary that the Report of the Public Accounts Committee and of Audit and Appropriation for 1112 be adopted, was then put to vote and carried.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

THE TRIVANDRUM CITY MUNICIPAL BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move that Messrs. C. P. Gopala Panicker, P. V. Mathai Chemparathil and P. Narayana Pillai be nominated members of the Joint Committee on the Trivandrum City Municipal Bill, in the place of Messrs. G. N. Tampi, K. T Thomas and A. Thanu Pillai.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: I second it. The motion was put to vote and carried.

THE TRAVANCORE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move that Mr. K. P. Kochukoratharakan be nominated on the Travancore District Municipalities Bill in the place of Mr. K. T. Thomas.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: I second it. The motion was put to vote and carried.

THE TRAVANCORE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Travancore Workmen's Compensation Bill.

In presenting the report, I may be permitted to make a few observations. The Bill was introduced sometime back and it was pending with the Select Committee for a pretty long time. In the meanwhile, certain amendments were made in the British Indian Workmen's Compensation Act; and the Select Committee had, therefore, the advantage of considering and in most cases of adopting those amendments, so that our legislation on this matter may be on a par with the legislation outside. Honourable members might know that all those amendments, have been referred to in detail in the Select Committee Report; and the Bill as revised contains important changes. These amendments, Sir, I believe, would put the Bill beyond all controversy and make it acceptable to both the labourers and employers. So far as I could see, there is not much to be moved by way of amendments to these provisions because this will in effect be the most up to-date Bill on this matter I move that the Bill as revised by the Select Committee be now considered.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON: Sir, I second the motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question before the House is that the Bill as revised by the Select Committee be considered.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

Clause 1.

The question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was put to vote and carried. The clause was added to the Bill.

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